

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4539

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AGS: PFOR, SY, XF

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL COMMENT STRESSES NEED FOR ARAB SOLIDARITY TO
CONFRONT SINAI AGREEMENT EFFECTS

1. AL-THAWRAH EDITOR ALI SULAYMAN SEPT 7 CALLED FOR INCREASED
ARAB SOLIDARITY TO CONFRONT EFFECTS OF SINAI AGREEMENT. FEARFUL
THAT "EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT MARKS BEGINNING OF SURRENDER OF
GAINS OF OCTOBER WAR," HE SPURNED "RECOVERY OF FEW KILOMETERS
THROUGH THE PROTECTORS OF THE ENEMY AND UNDER THEIR SUPERVISION,
CONTROL AND CONDITIONS" AND EXHORTED ARABS TO EFFECT "REAL GAINS
IMPOSED BY FIGHTING AND RESISTANCE." SULAYMAN OPINED THAT UNITY
OF SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN FRONT AND COHESIVENESS OF ARAB RANKS WORTH
MORE THAN RECOVERING PART OF ARAB LANDS.

2. DRAWING HISTORICAL COMPARISON, SULAYMAN NOTED "HISTORY HAS
TAUGHT US THAT SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN RAPPROACHMENT HAS OFTEN BEEN
COUPLED BY SYRIAN-IRAQI ALIENATION AND VICE-VERSA. THOSE
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IN CHARGE OF EXECUTING POLICY HOSTILE TO ARAB NATION HAVE TAKEN

THIS INTO ACCOUNT AND NEUTRALIZED BOTH EGYPT AND IRAQ TO
PREVENT ESTABLISHMENT OF STRONG EASTERN FRONT." BUT "WILL OF

ARAB NATION" WILL BE ABLE TO BREAK ATTEMPT TO BLOCKADE SYRIA.

3. SULAYMAN OPINED THAT "NEW STAGE OF ARAB STRUGGLE AGAINST

IMPERIALISM AND ZIONISM STARTED WITH SIGNING OF AGREEMENT"
AND URGED ARABS TO WORK ON FOLLOWING LEVELS:

A. INCREASED COORDINATION BETWEEN SYRIA, JORDAN AND PALESTINIAN
RESISTANCE; B. ACTIVITY ON ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELE TO
PUBLICIZE SYRIA'S POSITION; C. CONSOLIDATION OF DOMESTIC
FRONT ADLE TO COUNTER THREATS AGAINST COUNTRY; D. UNCEASING
CONTACTS WITH ARAB POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS TO PERSUADE THEM OF
CORRECTNESS OF SYRIAN POSITION AND DANGERS OF SINAI AGREEMENT.

4. AL-BAATH EDITOR ADNAN BAGHAJATI IN SEPT 8 EDITORIAL ALSO URGED
SYRIAN-JORDANIAN-PALESTINAIN COORDINATIONA DN CONCLUDED THAT
"DECISION REJECTING AGREEMENT HAS RETURNED ARAB-PALESTINIAN CAUSE
TO ITS ESSENCE ONCE AGAIN: CONFLICT BETWEEN ARABS AND ZIONISTS
IS NOT CONFLICT OVER BORDERS BUT OVER EXISTENCE."

5. COMMENT: EDITORIAL OPINION CONTINUES TO EMPHASIZE MEASURES
ARABS SHOULD TAKE -- CHIEFLY INCREASED SOLIDARITY -- TO DEAL
WITH EFFECTS OF AGREEMENT. U.S. NOT YET MENTIONED BY NAME IN
THESE BROADCASTS. ALMOST ALL WRITERS FIND MEANS TO URGE GREATER
SYRIAN-JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COORDINATION.
MURPHY

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